

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 /079 W

----- 107976

R 122129Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9790

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1116

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN PARTICIPATION IN MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN
SUGAR EXPORTERS

REF: STATE 061168

1. OFFICIAL HAITIAN NEWSPAPER LE NOUVEAU MONDE PUBLISHED ON MAY 11 THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE HAITIAN DELEGATE TO THE CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN SUGAR EXPORTERS IN SANTO DOMINGO. DELEGATE SUMMARIZED CURRENT STATUS OF HAITIAN SUGAR PRODUCTION NOTING THAT CLOSE TO 83,000 HECTARES WERE DEVOTED TO SUGAR AND THAT THREE REFINERIES WERE IN OPERATION WITH TOTAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 100,000 TONS. HE MENTIONED PRICE INCREASES GIVEN TO CANE PRODUCERS BUT NOTED THAT, IN VIEW LOW YIELDS (44 METRIC TONS PER HECTARE), INCREASED PRODUCTION WOULD REQUIRE NEW VARIETIES OF CANE, MODERN PRODUCTION METHODS AND MASSIVE PURCHASES OF FERTILIZER. DELEGATE ALSO REPORTED THAT MOST OF 74/75 SUGAR PRODUCTION WOULD BE NEEDED FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION.

2. IN CLOSING THE DELEGATE CONGRATULATED EVERYONE PRESENT ON THE BIRTH OF THE "GROUP OF 22", EXPRESSED HAITI'S UNCONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF DOCUMENT NO. 1 ON TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE AND APPLICATION OF NEW
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TECHNIQUES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HAITI'S

POSITION AS ONE OF THE SMALLEST EXPORTERS (ONLY HONDURAS EXPECTS TO EXPORT LESS) WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN FIXING THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO SECRETARIAT OF ORGANIZATION. HE ALSO SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO HONDURAN UNEASINESS WITH RESPECT TO ARTICLE 10 OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS (DOCUMENT NO. 4).

3. COMMENT - HAITIAN PARTICIPATION CONSISTED OF A MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIAL, ALIX PARET, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC REVENUE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE. OFFICIALS OF THE PLANNING AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAFT OF THE POSITION PAPER, BUT IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT ALL WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH OPERATES THE THREE REFINERIES. WITH RESPECT TO HIS STATEMENT THAT HAITI WILL EXPORT VERY LITTLE SUGAR THIS YEAR, EMBASSY STILL ESTIMATES THAT EXPORTS WILL REACH 20-22,000 SHORT TONS.
THOMSON

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